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Academic Affairs Weekly Update 9-24-16

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Academic Affairs Weekly Update 9-24-16

Colleagues,

It's a beautiful autumn day and the campus is teeming with families in for parents' weekend and homecoming activities. We had a chance to have coffee with the parents and grandparents of our first year students this morning and they overwhelmingly reported students are having a positive experience. Homesickness was the most consistent concern we heard; keeping students busy is a great antidote, so keep the homework and co-curricular activities coming!

Overall, parents were very complimentary about the helpfulness of staff in getting questions answered—from financial aid, to the registrar, to residential life, to the bookstore—parents felt they got the answers to address their students' needs. Parents also noted how much their students were enjoying particular classes and that their students shared that they had already gone to see their professors on office hours! The work you're doing together is making a difference for our students. Congratulations on a great opening to the AY!

As we have most weeks, we write to provide information about things happening in Academic Affairs. This week we'll share information about support available to you and your students around internships. This support comes to you through the Center for Business & Community Partnerships (CBCP).

Jess Morel of the CBCP has taken the reins of internship support and has streamlined the process and redesigned it to be one where students are taught how to find their own placement, rather than having a counselor find a placement for them. This change is driven by two factors: first, it fosters independence by providing our students with the experience of searching for and securing their first professional "job" within a supportive structure. Second, it allows us to support many more students interested in internships than we've been able to do in the past.

This first year is a bit of an experiment. We ask your patience, your support, and your feedback as we work to develop a set of best practices to help students in this important endeavor. Support mechanisms in place this fall are:

- Student workshops designed to help students prepare for off campus engagement
 - o Finding/securing an opportunity, Friday, 10/28, HUB 109, 12:30-2:00 and Thursday, 11/3, HUB 109, 2:30-4:00
 - o Resume workshops with career counselor Erick Pavelic immediately following each session
- Student access to a Moodle course with video modules to support their search, contact Jess to help your student gain access
- Drop in office hours with Jess Morel, Wednesdays, 1:00-5:00 p.m., starting mid-October (Jess is available by appointment at any time of year)

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- Referrals to internships as they come in to CBCP (these will generally sent to department chairs to share with students)
- Complete coordination of internships for departments who wish to outsource their management*

Programs are *NOT* required to have their internships coordinated through the CBCP to take advantage of the workshops and other student supports.

*For those programs that wish to have the center coordinate their internships, the internship will need to be offered as pass/fail rather than a graded course. Coordination consists of: (1) helping students prepare for the internships, (2) working with students as they negotiate learning objectives with partners, (3) assessing the quality of the site, (4) getting students registered for internship credits, (4) periodic check-ins with students, and (5) getting feedback from the partner site to ensure learning objectives were met.

If you'd like more information about internship coordination, please contact Jess Morel (jmorel@plymouth.edu) or Jess Dutille (jadutille@plymouth.edu) in the CBCP. If you need assistance in deciding whether to have the center coordinate your internships, please contact the Academic Dean associated with your college.

Jess Morel is located in the Garden Level of Mary Lyon Hall in the Student Success Center. She works in close proximity to career counselor Erik Pavesic. Erik recently joined the PSU family. Together, Erik and Jess are terrific resources to students interested in translating their learning experiences into careers or internships. We hope you'll reach out to them if you have questions or ideas about how best to support our students.

Best wishes for an enjoyable fall weekend; we'll bring you more updates next week.

Cynthia, Gail, and Robyn

The Academic Dean Team

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